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Rini Ghosh

I don't know if you are the right person to go to or if I am in the wrong group, but if you could direct this email to the correct people that could voice my opinion.

My name is Rich Fournier. I live in Austin Texas at present. I am moving back to Quihi Texas (30 miles west of San Antonio) to my parent's ranch in the next couple of months. I have just returned from northern Colorado after spending 7 years at Hewlett Packard, Loveland Campus.

Rini, I have to tell you that I was born in San Antonio. My parents moved my 2 older brothers and 1 older sister out to Quihi in 1959. I am a true, Native Son of the Southland. This small 214 acres that I call home is something very dear to me. 3 years ago my parents deeded this property to my siblings and myself. This April I will be purchasing my sister's and my one brother's shareand my other brother and I will be raising cattle together. It is property that I would like to keep in my family for the next 55 years. This will make an even 100 years and be recognized by the Texas Farm and Ranch Association. Along the way...I would like to think this land would continue to bless my family in countless ways.

In September of 2003, I came home from Colorado to care for my ageing parents ...raise a family, work the land, and to provide a place of peace and contentment. Now I find that Vulcan (a gravel company based in Alabama (<http://www.vulcanmaterials.com/index.asp>)) wants to put a railroad running 100 cars - 4 times daily ...200 yards from my parents house. This sleepy little community of Quihi, Texas, gently resisting any type of modernization for 150 years is now under attack by a gravel company wanting to strip mine it.

I can understand that our country has to progress, but at the expense of our natural resources? The people that own the property that Vulcan wants to lease are in great shape. If they don't like the noise or the pollution or traffic or trains....they have made enough money from the transaction and will simply move away. The rest of us are here, staying with the land that we have had in our family for decades, and we will suffer with the train cars all day and all night. The loss of wildlife...peace...quiet...the loss of our way of life.

I have rented the house that I grew up in ...to a young couple that raise sheep and goats for embryo transplant. The reason they selected Quihi was due to the quiet, rural setting that is necessary for goats and sheep not to abort expensive embryos. If a train is coming through 4 times daily...this business and his investments are down the gutter and my investments in refurbishing the house and goat pens is lost. How will I make the land payment if I cannot keep a renter in the house? Do all the other businesses in the community have to suffer so that one family and one company may prosper? What about the loss of property value that I just paid for? What of the safety living around a railroad? My parents raised me with an understanding, that everyone worked together....for the common good, and a man's handshake was his word. What happened? The short sightedness of one family has tossed this all out the window.

In closing my letter to you....I would like to just say thank you for time and attention to this matter, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

again ..thank you

Rich Fournier

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